

Docket Number: 09/779,156
Docket No.: 00/053 MFE
Page No.: 2

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An opaque, white film with a thickness of from 10 to 500 μm , wherein the film comprises a ~~crystallizable~~ thermoplastic, a pigment, and at least one optical brightener, wherein said ~~crystallizable~~ thermoplastic consists entirely of polyester and said pigment consists entirely of barium sulfate, wherein the barium sulfate or the optical brightener, or the barium sulfate and the optical brightener have been incorporated directly into the ~~crystallizable~~ thermoplastic or are fed as a masterbatch during film production, and wherein at least one surface of the film bears a functional coating with a thickness of from 5 to 10 nm, wherein the luminous transmittance of the film is reduced when the longitudinal stretch ratio is increased for a film of the same thickness, said film exhibiting a modulus of elasticity in the transverse direction of greater than or equal to 4200 N/mm².

2. (Currently Amended) The film as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~crystallizable~~ thermoplastic has been selected from the group consisting of polyethylene terephthalate, polybutylene terephthalate and polyethylene naphthalate.

3. (Currently Amended) The film as claimed in claim 1, wherein from 0.2 to 40% by weight of barium sulfate is present as pigment in the film, based on the weight of the ~~crystallizable~~ thermoplastic, and wherein the barium sulfate is fed by way of masterbatch technology during film production.

4. (Currently Amended) The film as claimed in claim 1, wherein, based on the weight of the ~~crystallizable~~ thermoplastic, from 10 to 50,000 ppm of optical brightener is

Docket Number: 09/779,156

Docket No.: 00/053 MFE

Page No.: 3

present in the film, and wherein the optical brightener is fed by way of masterbatch technology during film production.

5. (Original) The film as claimed in claim 4, wherein the optical brightener has been selected from the group consisting of bisbenzoxazoles, phenylcoumarins and bisstearylbiphenyls.

6. (Currently Amended) The film as claimed in claim 1, wherein, in addition to the optical brightener, a polyester-soluble blue dye selected from the group consisting of cobalt blue, ultramarine blue, anthraquinone dyes or combinations of these, is also present in the film, and wherein the amount of blue dye present in the film is from 10 to 10,000 ppm, based on the weight of the ~~crystallizable~~ thermoplastic.

7. (Currently Amended) The film as claimed in claim 1, wherein the barium sulfate is present as precipitated barium sulfate in the film in an amount of from 0.5 to 30% by weight, based on the weight of the ~~crystallizable~~ thermoplastic, and wherein the average grain size of the barium sulfate is from 0.1 to 5 μm , (Sedigraph method).

8. (Previously Presented) The film as claimed in claim 1, wherein the surface gloss of the film, measured to DIN 67530 (measurement angle 20°) is ≥ 10 , and wherein the luminous transmittance (transparency) of the film, measured to ASTM-D 1003 is $\leq 30\%$.

9. (Previously Presented) The film as claimed in claim 1, wherein the film has one or more layers, and the film having more than one layer comprises at least one base layer and at least one outer layer.

10. (Original) The film as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of the surfaces of the film bears a functional coating with a thickness of from 20 to 70 nm, and the coating has been applied as solution, suspension or dispersion, and wherein the

Docket Number: 09/779,156

Docket No.: 00/053 MFE

Page No.: 4

coating comprises substances or compositions selected from the group consisting of acrylates, ethylvinyl alcohols, PVDC, waterglass (Na_2SiO_4), hydrophilic polyesters, vinyl acetates, polyvinyl acetates, polyurethanes, silanes, the alkali metal or alkaline earth metal salts of C_{10} - C_{18} fatty acids, butadiene copolymers with acrylonitrile or methyl methacrylate, methacrylic acid, acrylic acid or esters thereof and mixtures of these.

11. (Original) The film as claimed in claim 10, wherein the coating comprises from 0.05 to 5% by weight of additional additives.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) An opaque white film with a thickness of from 10 to 500 μm , wherein the film comprises a single ~~crystallizable~~ thermoplastic, barium sulfate, and at least one optical brightener, wherein said single ~~crystallizable~~ thermoplastic consists ~~essentially~~ of polyester, wherein the barium sulfate or the optical brightener, or the barium sulfate and the optical brightener have been incorporated directly into the ~~crystallizable~~ thermoplastic or are fed as a masterbatch during film production, and wherein at least one surface of the film bears a functional coating with a thickness of from 5 to 10 nm, wherein the luminous transmittance of the film is reduced when the longitudinal stretch ratio is increased for a film of the same thickness, wherein said opaque white film further comprises regrind.

17. (Previously Presented) The opaque white film as claimed in claim 16, wherein said opaque white film further comprises regrind formed from said film in

Docket Number: 09/779,156

Docket No.: 00/053 MFE

Page No.: 5

amounts of up to 50 weight percent, said film having a thickness of up to 50 microns and exhibiting a yellowness of up to 20.

18. (Previously Presented) The opaque white film as claimed in claim 16, wherein said opaque white film further comprises regrind formed from said film in amounts of up to 50 weight percent, said film having a thickness of from 50 to 250 microns and exhibiting a yellowness of up to 45.

19. (Currently Amended) The opaque, white film as claimed in claim 1, wherein the luminous transmittance of said film is 15 to 20% lower than the luminous transmittance of a comparable film formed from said ~~crystallizable~~ thermoplastic having the same thickness as said film and lower longitudinal orientation than said film.

20. (Previously Presented) An opaque, white film with a thickness of from 10 to 500 μm , wherein the film comprises a crystallizable thermoplastic, barium sulfate, and at least one optical brightener, wherein said crystallizable thermoplastic consists entirely of polyester, wherein the barium sulfate or the optical brightener, or the barium sulfate and the optical brightener have been incorporated directly into the crystallizable thermoplastic or are fed as a masterbatch during film production, and wherein at least one surface of the film bears a functional coating with a thickness of from 5 to 10 nm, wherein the luminous transmittance of the film is reduced when the longitudinal stretch ratio is increased for a film of the same thickness, said film exhibiting

(a) a modulus of elasticity in the machine direction of at least 3300 N/mm^2 and in the transverse direction of greater than or equal to 4200 N/mm^2 ;

(b) tear strengths in the machine direction of greater than or equal to 120 N/mm^2 and in the transverse direction of greater than or equal to 170 N/mm^2 ; and

(c) elongations at break of greater than or equal to 120 % in the machine direction and greater than or equal to 50% in the transverse direction.

Docket Number: 09/779,156

Docket No.: 00/053 MFE

Page No.: 6

21. (New) An opaque, white film with a thickness of from 10 to 500 μm comprising barium sulfate, at least one optical brightener and optional blue dye, said film consisting of thermoplastic consisting entirely of polyester,

wherein the barium sulfate or the optical brightener, or the barium sulfate and the optical brightener have been incorporated directly into the thermoplastic or are fed as a masterbatch during film production, and wherein at least one surface of the film bears a functional coating.